

Betsy Wolfe featured in Visalia Education Foundation fundraising concert

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VISALIA - Betsy Wolfe, a Visalia native who has taken her singing talent to Broadway and Carnegie Hall, will return to her hometown for an exclusive fundraising event Aug. 13 at the L.J. Williams Theatre.

"An Evening with Betsy Wolfe" will showcase her versatile repertoire of music from Broadway, opera, cabaret and concert hall. In the past few months alone, Wolfe sang with "Glee" star Darren Criss in duet performances at Lincoln Center and Carnegie Hall, returned to the Metropolitan Opera for a role in "Die Fledermaus," and sang with Jimmy Buffett in Miami.

In the fall, Wolfe will return to Broadway in a revival of the six-character, Tony-Award-winning musical, "Falsettos."

Wolfe also managed to find time to sing as Elsa in a lab for the upcoming stage version of "Frozen," which Disney will bring to Broadway in 2018.

Accompanying Wolfe on piano will be Andrew Resnick, a Broadway veteran who most recently conducted the orchestra for the Tony-Award winning "The King and I" at the Lincoln Center Theatre.

Wolfe's show in Visalia will have one performance at 7:30 p.m. She is expected to combine Broadway and popular music as well as her personal favorites. Tickets are \$45, \$35 and \$25 and can be purchased online at the Visalia Education Foundation web site at www.visaliaedfoundation.org, at the box office of the Fox Theatre, 308 W. Main Street in Visalia, or by ordering tickets by phone at 730-7518. Sponsorships and opportunities for VIP events are also available.

The show is a fundraiser for the Visalia Education Foundation, a nonprofit public benefit corporation that supports programs in arts and sciences for students of the Visalia Unified School District.

The event promises to be as eclectic as Wolfe's wide-ranging career. She is best known for her role as Ellen opposite Zach Braff in the Susan Stroman directed adaptation of Woody Allen's "Bullets Over Broadway" and Rosa Bud in "The Mystery of Edwin Drood", as well as for her appearance as Cathy in "The Last Five Years," both on and off Broadway.

She had most recently teamed with Criss in their show "Broadway Today" for sold out crowds at The Kennedy Center with the National Symphony, the Toronto Symphony, and Carnegie Hall, performing under Maestro Steven Reineke with New York Pops.

Last summer, Wolfe starred in the world premiere of "Up Here" at the La Jolla Playhouse, which was written by Kristen Anderson-Lopez and Bobby Lopez the husband and wife team who collectively wrote "Book of Mormon," "Avenue Q", "In

Transit” and “Frozen.” The songwriting team is also composing the music for the stage version of “Frozen,” which will open in previews next year.

Wolfe is a native of Visalia who performed with the Green Acres Little Theater and Golden West High School, where she graduated in 2000. She graduated from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music and has since performed with more than 35 symphonic and pops orchestras. She periodically returns to Visalia, often for fundraising events such as this one.

“I am thrilled to be able to come and support the Visalia Education Foundation and see so many friends and family on this special trip,” Wolfe said.

For more information about the Visalia Education Foundation visit its web site at www.visaliaedfoundation.org.

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